

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 051719Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6244

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1442

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, ID, PT

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: LISBON 1222

SUMMARY: "MINISTER OF STATE OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR" HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO SEEK USG GOOD OFFICES IN EFFECTING INDONESIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM PORTUGUESE TIMOR. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF WAS CONTACTED MARCH 5 BY JOSE MARTINS, WHO PRESENTED AUTHENTIC-LOOKING DOCUMENTATION IDENTIFYING HIM AS "MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR" AND PRESIDENT OF KOTA, A PORTUGUESE TIMOR POLITICAL GROUP, WHICH, ALONG WITH THE UDT AND APODETTI, COLLABORATE IN THE INDONESIAN-BACKED EAST TIMOR PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO CARRIED AN OFFICIAL UNITED NATIONS IDENTIFICATION CARD IDENTIFYING HIM AS A MEMBER OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE U. N. MARTINS, WHO SAYS HE IS THE COUSIN OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UDT AND THE COUSIN AND NEPHEW OF, RESPECTIVELY, THE SECRETARY
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GENERAL AND MILITARY COMMANDER OF APODETTI, CLAIMS TO HAVE REPRESENTED THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AT THE UN DURING

ITS DECEMBER DEBATE ON THE INDONESIAN INVASION OF
PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

2. MARTINS STATED THAT INDONESIA IS FORCING PORTUGUESE
TIMOR INTO INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA AGAINST ITS WILL.
HE ADMITTED THAT MANY PORTUGUESE TIMOR RESIDENTS, IN-
CLUDING HIMSELF, HAD ORIGINALLY ADVOCATED INTEGRATION
AS A MEANS OF COUNTERING THE MARXIST-LED FRETELIN.
INDONESIAN BEHAVIOUR IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR SINCE THE INVASION, HOW-
EVER, HAS SOURED HIM AND OTHER NON-COMMUNIST TIMOR LEADERS ON
INTEGRATION. HE CLAIMS TO POSSESS DOCUMENTARY AND PHOTO-
GRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF NUMEROUS ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY
INDONESIAN TROOPS SINCE THE INVASION, INCLUDING THE MURDER
OF FIVE AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS. INDONESIAN MILITARY
AUTHORITIES, MARTINS STATED, HAD FORCED PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO SIGN A FORMAL REQUEST FOR INTE-
GRATION INTO INDONESIA AND TO DEMAND AN UNREASONABLE
QUID PRO QUO FOR THE RELEASE OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS
STILL BEING HELD IN TIMOR. GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WERE
UNABLE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE INDONESIANS, HOWEVER,
FOR FEAR OF INCURRING REPRISALS AGAINST THEIR FAMILIES,
MANY OF WHOM LIVED IN INDONESIA. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR
NEW YORK, MARTINS SAID, HE HAD BEEN CHARGED BY HIS
COLLEAGUES TO FLEE HIS INDONESIAN ESCORT AND TELL THE
REAL STORY ABOUT CONDITIONS IN TIMOR.

3. MARTINS WANTS TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TO
DISCUSS THE TIMOR QUESTION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.
HE WILL REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES USE ITS GOOD
OFFICES TO PERSUADE INDONESIA TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES.
THE RESIDENTS OF TIMOR WOULD BE WILLING, HE SAID, TO
ACCEPT A PROTECTORATE ARRANGEMENT WITH INDONESIA, BUT
WILL OPPOSE INTEGRATION BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. IF THE
UNITED STATES IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO CONVINCE INDONESIA
TO WITHDRAW, TIMOR'S POLITICAL MOVEMENTS SEEK AID WHEREVER
THEY CAN FIND IT. MARTINS CLAIMED THAT THE PRC HAD
ALREADY OFFERED SUPPORT AGAINST THE INDONESIANS.

4. MARTINS ALSO CLAIMED THAT GOP WANTS HIM TO WRITE
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AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A FULL REPORT ON INDONESIAN
ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR. TO DATE HE HAS REFUSED TO DO SO,
FEARING THAT THE PORTUGUESE WILL USE HIS INFORMATION
TO AID FRETELIN.

5. MARTINS CLAIMED TO HAVE INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF AMERICAN, AUSTRALIAN, CHINESE, AND JAPANESE INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES IN INDONESIA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ON CLOSE TERMS
WITH ONE "WILCOX," WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS AN AMERICAN AGENT.

6. EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO UDT LISBON REPRESENTATIVE MOISES (REFTTEL), WHO CONFIRMED MANY OF MARTINS'S CLAIMS. MOISES SAID HE HAD NOT YET CONTACTED MARTINS FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING HIS MISSION.

7. COMMENT: MARTINS IMPRESSED EMBOFF AS SLIGHTLY UNSTABLE AND GIVEN TO SELF-AGRANDIZEMENT. HIS DOCUMENTATION SEEMS GENUINE, HOWEVER, AND THE FACT THAT HIS STORY JIBES WITH MOISES'S LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO HIS CLAIMS. EMBOFF EXPLAINED USG POLICY OF NONINVOLVEMENT IN TIMOR, BUT AGREED TO REPORT CONVERSATION WITH MARTINS AND INFORM HIM IF DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON01442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED PER 78 LISBON 1630
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0979
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760391/aaaadcfi.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LISBON 1222
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE TIMOR
TAGS: PFOR, PO, ID, PT, US, KOTA, (MARTINS, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006